



PREPARE HIM ROOM

Christmas Eve

CALL TO WORSHIP

*With eyes wide open
and our ears on edge,*

**we look for shepherds
and listen for the songs of angels.**

*In the light of winter's moon,
with the bright stars lighting the way,*

**we gather outside the door of a mystery,
wondering if we dare go enter.**

*With folks and friends we love,
with strangers we have just met,*

**we gather, becoming the holy family
for this time and in this place.**

MAY YOU FIND A LIGHT

The Brilliance

Lost and weary traveler
Searching for the way to go
Stranger, heavy-hearted
Longing for someone you know

*May you find a light
May you find a light
May you find a light
To guide you home*

There are weary travelers
Searching everywhere you go
Strangers who are searching
Longing deeply to be known

THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Isaiah 9:2-7

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born (2x)

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from far distant land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend

He knows our need
Our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend (2x)

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord
O praise His name forever
His power and glory, evermore proclaim (2x)

THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Luke 2:1-7

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

*Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king"*

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Luke 2:8-14

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria

In excelsis Deo

Gloria

In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
He whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Luke 2:15-20

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders wonders of His love

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

HOMILY

Poverty of Spirit / Abundance of God

Pastor Matt Tinken

CONFESSION

Moment of Silence

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried.

Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart – Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;
into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;
into the brokenness of our lives,
Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen.

COMMUNION

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

You crept into chaos so long ago, Star-shaper,
so creation might be born:

 sheep gathering on hillsides,
 stars glittering in the night skies,
 sea horses frolicking in warm waters.

Silently, you gathered up the dust,
shaping us in your image
as the Spirit breathed life into us.

All the gifts of your heart were for us,
 but we slammed the door of our hearts,
 saying there was no room for you in our lives.

Prophets came time and again,
scattering your clues throughout the Story,
 but we were too busy enjoying
 the sleights of hand done by sin and death.

When you saw we could not understand the Mystery on our own,
you sent Jesus, to reveal everything to us.

**We will not be afraid,
 for great joy is ours this night;
we will look for the signs of your presence,
 grace swaddled in hope,
 love wrapped around broken hearts.**

**Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!
May peace fill the lives of all your children!**

Leaving your side, God of holiness,
your Child came to walk with us
through the cold streets of our lives.

Born in poverty's shadows,
he is the light which illumines
your heart for us.

Unwrapped from glory's embrace,
he gathers us from all the corners
of our confused choices to make us one with you.

Placed in a rude feeding trough
layered with our fears and doubts,
he breathes in your hopes
and lives your will, until
he is placed in death's cold embrace,
waiting in the silence,
where he breathes in resurrection's breath,
and brings forth life for all who follow.

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

**Christ is our light,
and we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.**

*The Communion Table is open to any and all who profess faith in Christ. Walk down the central aisles and return to your seat by the outer aisles. Please grab a small candle from the table.

THE CHRIST CANDLE

Psalm 36:8 - 9

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

BENEDICTION

Let us go to be the gift another needs,

**sharing God's blessings of love and grace,
running to tell the Story we heard from the shepherds.**

Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,

**sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,
welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable we
meet.**

Let us go to enkindle the lives around us,

**sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,
learning the language of hope from the children in our midst.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

bit.ly/3VrftL

CREDITS

Cover art by Maravillas Larios

Communion liturgy and benediction by Thom M. Shuman

